



May 22, 2016

Senate Agriculture Committee
State of Michigan
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Honorable Committee Members:

Michiganders for Shelter Pets fully supports SB 403. SB 403 is also known as "Grant's Bill" (named after a dog killed in the St. Joseph County Animal Control shelter's gas chamber). This bill will end the use of gas chambers in Michigan animal shelters.

Michiganders for Shelter Pets was created to bring together Michigan voters, animal shelters, animal protection agencies, Michigan businesses and Michigan professionals in a coordinated effort to advance the welfare of Michigan shelter pets. We speak for our citizen advocate group of over 3,000 Michigan voters and over 100 Michigan businesses and Michigan animal welfare professionals.

Within the last 8 months, the last 4 counties in Michigan that were using gas chambers have ceased. So you may ask why this legislation is important? It is important for the residents of Michigan to trust that gas chambers will not be used again in Michigan again. Ever. The public support for this legislation is simply overwhelming.

The AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) updated their euthanasia guidelines in late 2013. These guidelines are considered the gold standard for the animal welfare industry, and the **Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development's (MDARD) own guidelines for Michigan shelters state that they accept the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia as the authority on humane euthanasia, and they expect all individuals administering euthanasia in Michigan shelters to follow these guidelines.** The new 2013 AVMA guidelines state that they no longer recommend the use of carbon monoxide gas for "routine euthanasia of cats and dogs." Therefore, it's imperative to pass SB 403 for Michigan shelters to be in compliance with the guidelines of the MDARD and the AVMA.

I hope that Michigan will soon be able to join the other forward-thinking states that have ended the use of gas chambers. I believe you will find that all Michigan shelters, animal care professionals, humane

**P.O. Box 730, Charlotte, MI 48813
M4SPets@gmail.com
www.MichigandersForShelterPets.org**

societies and national veterinary and animal welfare groups agree that EBI is the gold standard, and Michigan's shelter pets deserve the gold standard in all aspects of their care—including euthanasia. We ask that you support this bill, so that all of Michigan's shelter pets receive the best care possible. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter that is of such importance to a great many Michiganders.

Sincerely,



Holly Thoms
Board Member, Michiganders for Shelter Pets
517-993-8600
M4SPets@gmail.com